

COMBINED
DNA
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SYSTEM

The CODIS Newsletter

WASHINGTON STATE PATROL

JULY 2017

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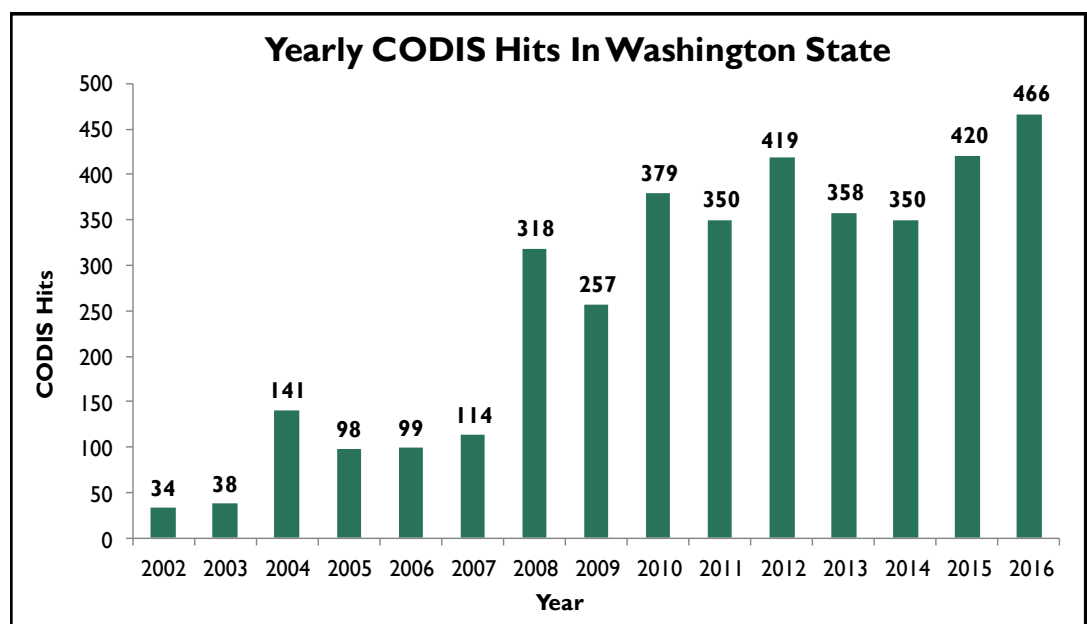
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Contact us to order more Convicted Offender DNA Kits, at no cost to your agency. If you already have gloves and cleaning materials for print ink (such as moist towelettes), we can omit those items from the kits.

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206-262-6152

A new record was set in 2016, with 466 CODIS hits generated! These hits resulted from DNA matches between offender samples and crime scene samples or between crime scene samples, yielding investigative leads on 466 unsolved cases.

Thank you to all our collectors throughout Washington State — this could not have been done without you!



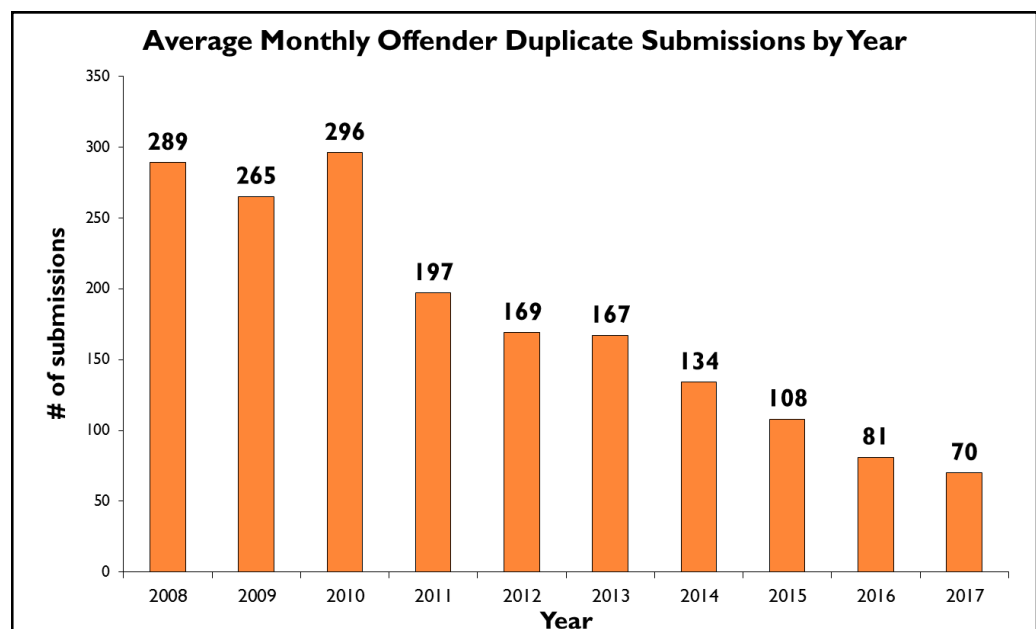
New Qualifying Offense

The governor recently signed a bill which designates a new qualifying offense for the convicted offender DNA program, effective 7/23/2017. Listed below is the new wording which will be in RCW [43.43.754](#):

“Assault in the fourth degree where domestic violence as defined in RCW 9.94A.030 was pleaded and proven (RCW 9A.36.041, 9.94A.030).”

Duplicate Submissions

The CODIS Laboratory began tracking duplicate submissions of convicted offender samples in 2008 and has continually sought ways to reduce these. Through a combined effort of revisions to the applicable RCW ([43.43.754](#)), convicted offender collection training, and outreach to collecting agencies, duplicate submissions have steadily decreased. Of note, duplicate submissions in March were recorded at an all-time low of only 52, or 5.6%! Reducing duplicate submissions is important as it results in time savings for collectors and CODIS staff and also reduces expenditures for convicted offender collection kits. Agencies will receive a duplicate submissions report at the beginning of each year to show how much money could be saved.



Although the amount of duplicate submissions has been decreasing, we are still receiving quite a few. Please remember to always check WATCH (Washington Access To Criminal History) before collecting a sample. If the “DNA Taken” field is set to “Y”, you DO NOT need to submit another sample. This policy was established pursuant to RCW [43.43.754](#).

Don't have access to WATCH yet?

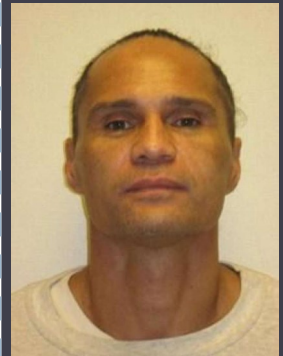
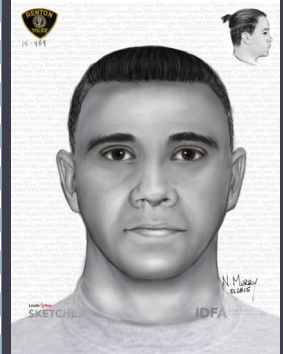
Criminal justice agencies can sign up for WATCH for **free**! WATCH can be used to view an offender's criminal history, making it easy to find information such as an offender's State ID number, a key component of the submission cards. You can also use WATCH to easily determine if a sample has already been collected, to help decrease duplicate submissions.

Sign up today by visiting: <http://watchcj.wsp.wa.gov/>

A CODIS Success Story

Donald and Suzanne Orehek were the victims of a violent home invasion and robbery that left the elderly couple with severe injuries. While the Orehek's were able to describe their attacker, police had no suspects. The crime scene was searched by the Washington State Patrol Crime Scene Response Team, looking for DNA evidence matching the attacker. A wrench used to incapacitate Donald, Suzanne's shirt, and swabs from the master bedroom dresser were sent to the WSP Seattle Crime Laboratory for DNA analysis. A swab from the dresser yielded a mixed DNA profile containing Suzanne's DNA and a male that did not match her husband.

The partial male profile was uploaded to CODIS and matched Anthony Kamaka Shaw, a felon who had been released from Benton County Jail two days prior to the home invasion. Facing his 3rd felony conviction and life in prison, Shaw pled guilty and received a 40-year sentence; he will be 91 after serving his time. Using cellphone records, police apprehended Shaw's former cellmate who assisted Shaw in the crime. Philip Andrew Boorkman pled guilty for being the driver and was sentenced to 100 months in prison.



Without the CODIS hit, this case would likely not have been solved.

The Power of CODIS

Not only can the CODIS program be used to generate hits between offenders and crime scene samples, it can also provide forensic hits between two separate cases, helping to link unsolved crimes. A forensic hit like this led to the arrest and conviction of serial rapist Dean Connors. Everett PD and Snohomish County SO both had unsolved violent rapes, occurring in 2014 and 2016 respectively. CODIS generated a forensic hit between the two cases, leading investigators from both agencies to compare notes and victims' statements, which allowed them to develop a suspect – Dean Connors. Connors was brought in and ended up confessing to his crimes. Without the forensic hit prompting the agencies to collaborate, Connors may not have been identified as the perpetrator.

Collection Tips

- Please remember to put postage on the outer envelope and submit promptly to the CODIS Lab (within ~2 weeks).
- Always make sure to fill out the front of the submission card. Agency, collector name, and signature are required.
- If you have already checked WATCH and the offender does not have a SID yet, write either the FBI, DOC, or SSN UNDER where the SID goes.
- Do not use Wite-Out® on the submission cards. If a correction needs to be made, use a single line strike-out and initial.
- It is recommended to collect samples upon conviction/intake. By following this process, if a sample needs to be recollected, the offender will likely still be in custody.
- The offense written on the submission card must be the conviction, not the charge the offender was arrested for.
- Use the red security seal provided with the kit to seal the return envelope. Please remember the collector's initials should be on the seal, not the offender's.



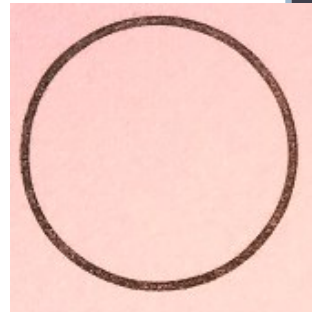
Good Sample

Much of the circle has changed from pink to white after pressing the swab on the paper



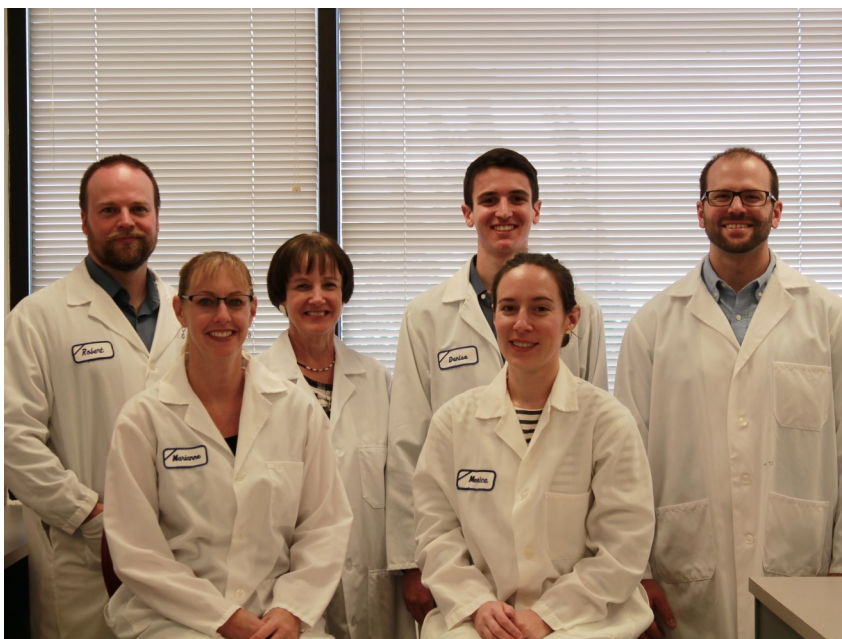
Poor Sample

The swab was rubbed instead of pressed on the paper



Poor Sample

No color change can be seen, meaning that there is little or no sample on the paper.



Questions about taking a DNA sample? Need some help with the submission card? We are happy to provide training to collectors, either in person or by DVD. Drop us a line!

confel@wsp.wa.gov

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